

Article 18A.

North Carolina and South Carolina Rail Compact.

§ 136-225. Short Title.

This Article shall be known and may be cited as the North Carolina and South Carolina Rail Compact Act. (2014-121, s. 1.)

§ 136-226. (See note) Compact provisions.

The Compact is as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA RAIL COMPACT COMMISSION

(a) Creation. – There is hereby established the South Carolina and North Carolina Interstate Freight Rail Compact Commission (hereinafter "Commission"). The Commission is established as a regional instrumentality and a common agency of each signatory party, empowered in a manner hereinafter to carry out the purposes of the Compact.

(b) Purposes. – The State of South Carolina and the State of North Carolina agree, upon adoption of this compact:

- (1) To study, develop, and promote a plan for the design, construction, financing, and operation of freight rail service between Mullins, South Carolina, and Fair Bluff, North Carolina, between Fair Bluff, North Carolina, and Tabor City, North Carolina, including the branch to Whiteville, North Carolina, and Tabor City, North Carolina, and Conway, South Carolina, or other points east of Conway, South Carolina, to a connection with the Waccamaw Coastline Railroad in Horry County, South Carolina.
- (2) To coordinate their best efforts to prevent the abandonment of rail service in Columbus County, North Carolina, and in Marion and Horry Counties, South Carolina, in order to promote economic development.
- (3) To promote the overall health, well-being, and economic growth of Columbus County, North Carolina, Horry and Marion Counties, South Carolina, through improved rail service, improved rail infrastructure, and improved connections to the interstate freight rail network of the United States.

(c) Members, terms. – The North Carolina members of the Commission shall be composed of four members as follows: one person appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one person appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member of the North Carolina Railroad Company Board of Directors designated by its Board of Directors, and one member appointed by the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The terms of the North Carolina members are two years, with the initial terms expiring June 30, 2017. The South Carolina members of the Commission shall be as provided by South Carolina law. Their terms of office shall be established by South Carolina law.

(d) Chair. – The chair of the Commission shall be chosen by the members of the Commission from among its membership for a term of one year and shall alternate between the member states.

(e) Meetings and reports. – The Commission shall meet at least twice each year, at least once in South Carolina and once in North Carolina or at such other locations agreed to by a majority of Commission members, and shall issue a report of its activities each year not later than September 30 of each year.

(f) Funds. – The Commission may utilize, for its operation and expenses, funds appropriated or allocated to it by the states of South Carolina and North Carolina, funds received from state or federal sources, or donation of funds or in-kind contributions received from established regional or local economic development organizations in either state.

(g) Expenses of Members. – South Carolina members of the Commission shall receive compensation and reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the applicable laws of that state. North Carolina members of the Commission shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances which do not exceed those set forth in G.S. 120-31, 138-5, or 138-6.

(h) Staff. – Primary staff or advisors to the Commission shall be provided as determined by the Commission, with the advice and consultation from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

(i) Powers. – The Compact or other affiliated entity appropriate for the purposes set forth herein created by the Commission shall have any of the powers of a nonprofit I.R.S. § 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) organization, as determined by the Commission, including, but not limited to, the right to acquire, hold, lease, license, or transfer ownership of the Carolina Southern Railroad lines, or any other railroad lines and related assets determined by the Commission to be in the economic development interests of the counties in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

(j) Effectiveness. – This compact is effective when approved by both the North Carolina General Assembly and South Carolina General Assembly, except that if approval is required by the Congress of the United States then this compact is also contingent on such approval by Congress. (2014-121, s. 2.)

§ 136-227: Reserved for future codification purposes.

§ 136-228: Reserved for future codification purposes.

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